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FM THE SITUATION ROOM

TO WINSTON LORD FOR MR. KISSINGER

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SEPTEMBER 27, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: EVENING NOTES

VIETNAM SITUATION: THERE HAVE BEEN NO MAJOR CONTACTS OR SIGNIFICANT CHANGES REPORTED IN THE MILITARY SITUATION SINCE YOUR LAST BRIEF. DANANG RECEIVED SEVEN ROUNDS OF 122-MM ROCKET FIRE THIS MORNING RESULTING IN NO DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES.

A RALLIER HAS PROVIDED INFORMATION THAT SUPPORTS RECENT INDICATIONS SUGGESTING INCREASED ACTIVITY IN THE VICINITY OF BEN HET RANGER CAMP. THE RALLIER STATED THAT BEN HET WOULD BE ATTACKED IN OCTOBER AND THAT THIS GROUND INITIATIVE WOULD BE PRECEDED BY HEAVY INDIRECT FIRE BARRAGES. THE ELIMINATION OF THIS FRIENDLY OUTPOST WOULD PERMIT THE ENEMY GREATER CAPABILITY TO SECURE HIS LOGISTICS CORRIDOR THAT LEADS FROM THE TRI-BORDER AREA.

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UPDATE ON POWS: THE RELEASED U.S. OFFICERS AND ACCOMPANYING PARTY REACHED MOSCOW ABOUT MIDDAY (EDT) TODAY. AFTER CONSIDERABLE EFFORT, U.S. CHARGE ADOLPH DUBS WAS FINALLY ABLE TO MAKE HIS PRESENTATION TO THE OFFICERS, WHO REPLIED THAT THEY DID NOT WISH TO JEOPARDIZE THE POSSIBLE RELEASE OF OTHER POWS AND THUS THEY HAD OPTED TO RETURN TO THE U.S. VIA COMMERCIAL CARRIER IN ACCORDANCE WITH PLANS

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

OSD, NSA reviews
completed

State Dept. review completed

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MADE BY THEIR ANTI-WAR ESCORTS. THE OFFICERS, ALL OF WHOM APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH, DECLINED AN OFFER OF EMBASSY HOSPITALITY DURING THEIR MOSCOW STOPOVER.

MEANWHILE, EMBASSY COPENHAGEN IS PREPARING TO RECEIVE THE OFFICERS WHO ARE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE THERE TOMORROW MORNING. A MEDEVAC AIRCRAFT WILL BE STANDING BY AT A DISTANCE FROM THE MAIN TERMINAL SHOULD THE OFFICERS OPT TO USE IT. A LARGE SHOW IS BEING PLANNED BY THE STOCKHOLM-BASED WAR CRIMES COMMISSION TO INCLUDE A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE AIRPORT. TELEVISION CAMERAS ARE BEING SET UP AND A EUROVISION TELECAST IS PLANNED.

SENATE CALLS FOR POW RELEASE: THE SENATE TODAY PASSED A RESOLUTION CALLING ON NORTH VIETNAM TO AGREE TO A RAPID EXCHANGE OF ALL POWS. THE RESOLUTION POINTED OUT THAT THE U.S. IS COMPLYING WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION REQUIRING THE RELEASE OF SICK AND WOUNDED PRISONERS AND HUMANITARIAN TREATMENT OF PRISONERS, AND URGED THAT ALL PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION SHOULD JOIN WITH THE U.S. IN PREVAILING UPON NORTH VIETNAM TO RETURN ALL POWS.

SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF SINO-GERMAN TALKS: EMBASSY BONN HAS RECEIVED WORD FROM THE FRG FOREIGN OFFICE THAT THE FRG AND CHINESE DELEGATION HAVE SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED TALKS LEADING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SINO-GERMAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND PAVING THE WAY FOR SCHEEL'S OCTOBER 10-14 VISIT TO PEKING. A JOINT COMMUNIQUE WILL BE PUBLISHED AT THE END OF THE SCHEEL VISIT, ANNOUNCING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

25X1

THE EVENING STAR - DAILY NEWS:

PAUL HOPE REPORTS THAT VICE PRESIDENT AGNEW DECLARED LAST NIGHT THAT FOREIGN POLICY IS TOO COMPLEX TO LET CONGRESS IN ON EVERY ADMINISTRATION DECISION, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME THE PRESIDENT,

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SPEAKING ON A WIDE RANGE OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS TOPICS, COLLECTED MORE THAN 27 MILLION FOR HIS CAMPAIGN.

THREE U.S. POWS RELEASED BY NORTH VIETNAM MORE THAN A WEEK AGO ARRIVED IN MOSCOW TODAY AND SAID THEY ARE WILLING TO MEET PRIVATELY WITH U.S. DIPLOMATS.

RICHARD CRITCHFIELD RELATES THAT FILIPINO PEASANTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN NEW HOPE BY PRESIDENT MARCOS' MOVES SINCE IMPOSING MARTIAL LAW. THE DECLARATION OF MILITARY RULE SEEMS LESS A RESTRICTION ON CIVIL LIBERTIES THAN A PROMISE THAT A WAY CAN FINALLY BE FOUND OUT OF AGRICULTURAL STAGNATION.

GEORGE SHERMAN REPORTS THAT SOURCES CLOSE TO THE PARIS PRIVATE TALKS HAVE HINTED THAT THE FOCUS IS ON A POLITICAL FORMULA FOR THE FUTURE OF THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT. MEANWHILE, THE ROLE OF THE SOVIET UNION OUTSIDE THE FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS ALSO CONTINUES TO INCREASE IN PROMINENCE. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW HELD MEETINGS WITH SOVIET LEADERS YESTERDAY AND MONDAY, AND A KNOWLEDGEABLE WASHINGTON OFFICIAL SAYS THE PRESIDENT WILL HOST A WORKING DINNER MONDAY NIGHT WITH GROMYKO, SECRETARY ROGERS AND YOURSELF IN ATTENDANCE.

HENRY BRADSHAW REVEALS THAT HIGH CAMBODIAN OFFICIALS HAVE STATED THAT AMERICAN AID TO CAMBODIA IS PAYING FOR SUPPLIES WHICH ARE SMUGGLED TO THE COMMUNISTS, APPARENTLY WITH THE ACQUIESCENCE OF THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT.

JOHN RODERICK OF AP REPORTS THAT EVIDENCE MOUNTED TODAY THAT DIFFICULTIES HAVE CROPPED UP IN THE PREPARATION OF A COMMUNIQUE ON THE CHINA-JAPAN SUMMIT TALKS. POSSIBLE STICKING POINTS WERE THE QUESTIONS OF FUTURE JAPANESE RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN AND TERMINATION OF JAPAN'S STATE OF WAR WITH CHINA.

ANDREW BOROWIEC SEES CHANCELLOR WILLY BRANDT'S DREAM OF A RESPECTED GERMANY AS RAPIDLY DETERIORATING INTO BITTERNESS, RECRIMINATIONS AND POLITICAL MUD-SLINGING. "OSTPOLITIK" IS RAPIDLY BECOMING A DIRTY WORD IN THE MOUTHS OF BRANDT'S OPPONENTS, HE NOTES.

THE STAFF-NEWS CONDEMNS HANOI'S DISGUSTING ATTEMPTS TO USE THE RELEASE OF THREE AMERICAN POWS FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES AND THE "NON-SENSE" WHICH HAS BEEN WRITTEN ABOUT THE FUTURE "CONFISCATION" OF THE TRIO BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

SMITH HEMPSTONE BELIEVES THE LATEST SERIES OF EVENTS IN UGANDA SERVES TO UNDERLINE THE "HYPOCRISY AND IDIOTCY OF AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD

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RHODESIA. THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO RECOGNIZE RHODESIA FOR OUR
DIPLOMATS ARE "BREAKING BREAD EVERY DAY WITH FAR WORSE THAN THE
LIKES OF IAN SMITH."

MICHAEL MORROW REPORTS THAT PROSTITUTION AND DRUG USAGE AMONG U.S.
SERVICEMEN ARE RUNNING RAMPANT JUST OUTSIDE THE GATES OF UDORN
(THAILAND) AIR BASE.

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